

Meeting the Moment:

What's on the ballot?

September 2026



COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Empowering nonprofits across Colorado to identify and address community needs through connections, convenings, and capacity building.

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Welcome to *Meeting the Moment: What's on the ballot?* This resource packet was created to accompany CRC's interview with Margaret Graham and provide additional tools for nonprofits and community leaders to learn more about what is on the 2026 midterm ballot, what makes Colorado elections unique, and roles nonprofits can play. Here you will find information on voter eligibility and registration and how Colorado measures get on the ballot. Colorado has 14 measures this year, the largest ballot in the nation, mostly citizen initiatives, and many focused on taxes and on shifts in where decision-making power sits. Lastly, explore ways nonprofits can serve as trusted, nonpartisan connectors for ballot education.

Why is voting in midterms appointment?

Voting in elections, regardless of when they are, is incredibly important. Midterm elections, or elections that take place mid-way through a 4-year cycle, focus on state and local elected offices and issues. See Community Resource Center's [4-Year Election Cycle](#) graphic for more information. Voter turnout data shows only 45-50% of eligible voters return a ballot in midterm elections, compared to 60-67% of eligible voters in presidential elections.

Voter eligibility & registration

- Who is eligible to vote?
 - US citizens at the time of registering to vote
 - Must be at least 18 years old to vote
 - 16-year-olds may pre-register to vote
 - Must be a Colorado resident, starting at least 22 days before the election that the individual intends to vote in
- How does someone register to vote?
 - Online through Colorado's Secretary of State at [GoVoteColorado.gov](https://www.GoVoteColorado.gov)
 - By mail with a paper application that is available on [GoVoteColorado.gov](https://www.GoVoteColorado.gov)
 - At a Voter Registration Drive
 - At a polling site. A map is available at [JustVoteColorado.org](https://www.JustVoteColorado.org)

In Colorado, all voters registered before mid-October receive a ballot through the mail.

How do ballot measures get on the ballot?

Ballot measures are proposed laws or amendments that appear on ballots for voters to approve or reject. There are two types: constitutional measures and statutory measures.

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Constitutional measures would change, or amend, the Colorado State Constitution. Once passed, it can only be changed later by another constitutional amendment. **Statutory measures** are proposed changes to state law. Once passed, these measures can be changed or amended later without another vote.

There are two different ways for these measures to make it on to a ballot – either as a referred initiative or as a citizen initiative.

Referred initiatives are measures that have been voted on by the Colorado General Assembly for inclusion on the ballot. Referred measures are labeled on ballots with letters, such as Proposition LL or Amendment J.

For **constitutional measures**, two-thirds of the House of Representatives and two thirds of the Senate need to vote in favor.

Statutory measures simply need a majority of both the House and the Senate.

Citizen initiatives are measures that everyday Colorado residents can propose. These are labeled with numbers, like Proposition 100 or Amendment 79. To learn more about how a citizen initiative works, check out this CRC resource [Citizen's Initiatives 101](#) or listen to CRC's [Meeting the Moment: Citizen's Initiatives](#), with Andrew Barton from Colorado Common Cause.

Constitutional measures need signatures from 2% of registered voters in each Colorado Senate district.

Statutory measures need signatures totaling 5% of all votes cast in the last election, collected from all Colorado Senate districts.

Once on the ballot, voters are given a chance to vote in favor or vote against the measures. Any statutory measure, regardless of where it originated, needs a simple majority of votes to pass. Any constitutional measure needs 55% of the vote to pass.

Preview of the 2026 ballot measures

There are 14 total state-wide ballot measures that will appear on the 2026 ballot. Look for additional local ballot measures that are county or district specific.

The [14 state-wide ballot measures](#) are:

- Amendment 81 – Law Enforcement Communication with Federal Authorities
- Amendment 82 – Constitutional Right to Purchase and Sell Natural Gas
- Amendment 83 – Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish

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- Amendment 84 – Mail Ballot Voter Identification
- Amendment 85 – Plain Language Ballot Questions
- Amendment 86 - Congressional Redistricting
- Amendment 87 – Graduated Income Tax
- Proposition NN – Keep & Spend Money for Education and Other Purposes
- Proposition 132 – Increase Penalties for Fentanyl Crimes
- Proposition 133 – Penalties for Human Trafficking of a Minor
- Proposition 134 – Male and Female Participation in School & Collegiate Sports
- Proposition 135 – Prohibit Surgeries on Minors in Response to Perception of Sex or Gender
- Proposition 136 – Income Tax Rate Limit
- Proposition 137 – Direct Sporting Goods Sales Tax Revenue for Conservation

There is an additional ballot issue that will appear on the ballot for the following counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Huerfano, Jefferson, Larimer, Las Animas, Pueblo, and Weld.

- [Ballot Issue 7A – Front Range Passenger Rail District](#)

What is the role of nonprofits

Many community members face barriers to participating in our democracy or feel disconnected from the voting process. As trusted messengers, nonprofits are uniquely positioned to bridge that gap by providing accurate information, creating welcoming spaces, and encouraging participation in ways that reflect their mission and values. Community Resource Center provides capacity building support for Colorado nonprofits to empower voters in their communities. CRC's [Empowering Every Voter](#) on-demand package provides practical, action-oriented resources to support nonprofits with voter engagement.

Additional resources

[Count Me In](#)

[Ballotpedia](#)

Values Aligned Policy Groups

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